

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of formatting a computer-readable  
5 document comprising a plurality of objects having  
directly-assigned attributes, the method comprising:  
detecting objects, in said computer-readable  
document, having directly-assigned attributes;  
creating a conversion style element for every  
10 detected combination of directly-assigned  
attributes in the computer-readable document; and  
replacing directly-assigned attributes of  
each detected object by a reference to one  
conversion style element wherein said one  
15 conversion style element corresponds to said  
directly-assigned attributes.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said creating a  
conversion style element further comprises creating a  
20 conversion style element for each unique detected  
combination of directly-assigned attributes.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
opening said computer-readable document in a  
25 random access memory of a computer system prior to  
said detecting operation.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
receiving a request from a user to perform  
30 said detecting, creating and replacing operations.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the computer-  
readable document comprises a text document.
- 35 6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
naming each conversion style element.

7. A method of formatting a computer-readable document comprising a plurality of objects having directly-assigned attributes, the method comprising:

5 receiving a request from a user to convert directly-assigned attributes to at least one conversion style element;  
detecting objects, in said computer-readable document, having directly-assigned attributes;  
10 creating a conversion style element for every unique detected combination of directly-assigned attributes in the computer-readable document; and  
replacing directly-assigned attributes of each detected object by a reference to one conversion style element wherein said one  
15 conversion style element corresponds to said directly-assigned attributes.

8. A computer system comprising:

a processor; and  
20 a memory storing a method for formatting a computer-readable document comprising a plurality of objects having directly-assigned attributes, wherein upon execution of said method on said processor said method comprises:  
25 detecting objects, in said computer-readable document, having directly-assigned attributes;  
creating a conversion style element for every detected combination of directly-assigned attributes in the computer-readable document; and  
30 replacing directly-assigned attributes of each detected object by a reference to one conversion style element wherein said one conversion style element corresponds to said directly-assigned attributes.

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9. The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said creating a conversion style element further comprises

creating a conversion style element for each unique detected combination of directly-assigned attributes.

10. The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said  
5 method further comprises:

opening said computer-readable document in a random access memory of said memory prior to said detecting operation.

11. The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said  
10 method further comprises:

receiving a request from a user to perform said detecting, creating and replacing operations.

12. The computer system of Claim 8 wherein the  
15 computer-readable document comprises a text document.

13. The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said  
20 method further comprises naming each conversion style element.

14. A computer program product having stored thereon a method of formatting a computer-readable document comprising a plurality of objects having  
25 directly-assigned attributes, the method comprising:  
detecting objects, in said computer-readable document, having directly-assigned attributes;  
creating a conversion style element for every detected combination of directly-assigned  
30 attributes in the computer-readable document; and  
replacing directly-assigned attributes of each detected object by a reference to one conversion style element wherein said one conversion style element corresponds to said  
35 directly-assigned attributes.

15. The computer program product of Claim 14  
wherein said creating a conversion style element  
further comprises creating a conversion style element  
for each unique detected combination of directly-  
5 assigned attributes.

16. The computer program product of Claim 14  
wherein said method further comprises:  
receiving a request from a user to perform  
10 said detecting, creating and replacing operations.

17. The computer program product of Claim 14  
wherein said method further comprises:  
naming each conversion style element.  
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